



PROCLAMATION
CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS, every child deserves a promise of love and protection; Sumter County's prosperity depends on fostering the healthy development of its children; and

WHEREAS, research demonstrates that safe and nurturing relationships and stimulating environments improve brain development; and

WHEREAS, abuse and neglect of children can severely impact a child's physical, mental and emotional well-being; it can lead to learning and behavioral problems as well as increased risk for long-term physical and mental illness into adulthood; and

WHEREAS, in the last fiscal year, there were 3.9 million reports nationwide made to child protective services; and

WHEREAS, prevention remains the best defense for our children and families; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the partnerships created between child welfare professionals, education, health, community- and faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement agencies, and families.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Sumter County, Florida hereby proclaims:

April 2023, as:

Child Abuse Prevention Month

DONE AND PROCLAIMED this 11TH day of April 2023, Sumter County, Florida.

Attest:

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SUMTER COUNTY**

Melissa Elliott
Deputy Clerk

Craig A. Estep
Chairman